

**VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
REGULAR VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES  
Monday, September 23, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 23, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Room of Village Hall, 400 Park Avenue – River Forest, IL.

**1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: President Adduci, Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Clerk Kathleen Brand-White, Village Administrator Eric Palm, Assistant Village Administrator Lisa Scheiner, Assistant to the Village Administrator Jonathan Pape, Management Analyst Sara Phyfer, Police Chief James O’Shea, Public Works Director John Anderson, Finance Director Rosemary McAdams, Village Engineer Jeff Loster, Village Attorney Greg Smith

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Adduci led the pledge of allegiance.

**3. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Anna Schnedorf, 610 Monroe. Ms. Schnedor thanked the Board for considering item 5D. She stated that this block of Monroe is cleaned up now.

Nate Mellman, 750 Clinton. Mr. Mellman stated he appreciated the Board’s job and responsibility regarding potential tax revenues but cautioned they weigh the costs involved with allowing cannabis businesses to locate in River Forest. He listed some of these costs and stated authorizing the collection of a tax sends a message about cannabis use.

Administrator Palm noted the Illinois Department of Revenue has a deadline on when the cannabis tax must be submitted.

**4. ELECTED OFFICIAL COMMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a. Recognition of River Forest Police Department – Traffic Safety Award

Paul Rizzo, a law enforcement liaison for the Illinois Department of Transportation, summarized the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge. He stated that the program recognizes agencies that have successfully implemented comprehensive traffic safety programs, which ultimately reduce traffic crashes and related injuries. He congratulated the Police

Department and community on their efforts, as well as Officer Dan Humphreys for writing the winning report. Mr. Rizzo announced that the award included a handheld radar device and a portable breath testing device. The Department also won a drawing for a \$30,000 suite of squad equipment. President Adduci highlighted that safety is one of the Village's guiding principles. On behalf of the Board, she thanked and congratulated the team for their work.

Trustee Henek thanked everyone involved in LemonAid, including the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments. She stated approximately 3,000 people attended the event.

Trustee Brennan stated she attended the Illinois Municipal League Annual Conference. She reported on a presentation that reviewed the regulation of cannabis. Illinois is the first state to regulate via legislation rather than a ballot referendum, she stated, noting that legislators had time to think through and respond more thoughtfully to the topic. She stated she also attended a renewable energy presentation and one on social media policy. She highlighted the takeaways from each presentation: State's Clean Energy Jobs Act and their push to eliminate gas-powered vehicles, and a recommendation that public officials and municipal employees keep separate public and private accounts.

Village Clerk Brand-White congratulated the Police Department on their Traffic Safety Award.

Trustee Vazquez credited the Police and Fire Departments for a respectful and well-attended 9/11 ceremony. He congratulated the trustees on the success of LemonAid. He also noted that he and President Adduci attend the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Age-Friendly Communities collaborative meeting and that they are soliciting grant funds in continuous efforts in this process.

Trustee Cargie apologized for missing the last meeting but noted that he agreed with the comments made regarding cannabis. He further noted that money received from alternative revenue sources is not something taxing residents. He congratulated the Fire and Police Departments on their respective awards.

Trustee Bachner read a statement to acknowledge that this land was once inhabited by indigenous people and stated that River Forest continues to be a place that people from diverse backgrounds live and gather. She commented that LemonAid was a wonderful event again this year and that Citizens Corp did a great job. Trustee Bachner mentioned that the Complete Count Committee would be meeting September 24 and read two ways Census data are used: distributing medical research and re-appropriating seats in the House of Representatives. She congratulated again the Police and Fire Departments for their awards. Additionally, she reported she attended the climate strike in the area, commenting that it was energizing and stated she was proud that River Forest has a Sustainability Commission.

President Adduci wished everyone a Happy Indigenous Peoples Day, which is September 30. She reported that she and Administrator Palm will ensure construction sites are safe by asking contractors to wrap their fencing. She noted she also attended the IML Annual Conference and agreed that the cannabis discussion was insightful. President Adduci

thanked Assistant Administrator Scheiner for doing a great job presenting the information. Pension reform is one of the top legislative issues IML is working on, she reported, stating that consolidation would lead to 2-10% of additional money to fund pensions.

**5. CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2019
- b. Regular Village Board Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2019
- c. Executive Session Village Board Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2019
- d. Amend Section 9-3-20 of the Village Code for an ADA Parking Space on Monroe Between Quick and Oak – Ordinance
- e. Amend Section 9-3-20 of the Village Code for removal of an ADA Parking Space on Ashland Between Madison and Vine – Ordinance
- f. Create Section 3-8-15 of the Village Code Regarding Imposition of a Municipal Cannabis Retailers’ Occupation Tax – Ordinance
- g. Financial Report – August 2019
- h. Accounts Payable – August 2019 – \$2,443,178.27
- i. Village Administrator’s Report

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to approve the Consent Agenda items A-I.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

- a. Accounts Payable from the Madison Street TIF Fund (\$7,973.36) (*Trustee Vazquez Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell, to approve payment from the Madison Street TIF Fund for \$7,973.36.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Vazquez

Motion Passes.

- b. Accounts Payable from the General Fund to McDonald’s-Karavites for \$254.15 (*Trustee O’Connell Common Law Conflict of Interest*)

Trustee Bachner made a motion, seconded by Trustee Vazquez, to approve payment from the General Fund to McDonald's-Karavites for \$254.15.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee O'Connell

Motion Passes.

## **7. RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

- a. Traffic and Safety – Amend Title 9 of the Village Code – Change to Resident Parking Only on Linden between Thatcher and Gale – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to approve an ordinance to amend Title 9 of the Village Code to install a Resident Only Parking Zone restriction on the south side of Linden Street between Thatcher and Gale.

Village Engineer Loster summarized this request. He stated there has been an influx in phone calls about commuters parking on unrestricted streets, and the residents requested a Resident Only Parking Zone instead of the two-hour time limit that was previously in place.

In response to a question from President Adduci, Village Engineer Loster stated it was the residents' preference because they like to park on the sides of their houses on Linden rather than on Thatcher or Gale.

Trustee Cargie stated that around the commuter zones it is resident permit only so people elsewhere in the Village do not come to park there.

Trustee Henek commented that residents wanted to be able to park on Linden without having to move their car throughout the day.

In response to questions from the Board, Village Engineer Loster stated there are a few more similar requests in the pipeline in different areas but with the same motives. Additionally, he noted that they would be before the Board soon unless they decided to wait to hear the requests until after the parking study is completed.

The Board briefly discussed this request and the impact of approving it. They concluded this is the last piece of the puzzle to deter commuters from parking in this area.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

b. Traffic and Safety – Recommendation to Increase Police Department Presence on the 0-100 Blocks of Keystone

Trustee Cargie made a motion, seconded by Trustee Henek, to concur with the Traffic and Safety Commission recommendation and direct Staff to increase Police Department presence on the 0-100 blocks of Keystone.

Village Engineer Loster summarized this request.

In response to a question from Trustee O’Connell, Village Engineer Loster stated the issue is that Keystone is perceived as a major cut-through for drivers travelling eastbound on Madison.

President Adduci stated the phrase police presence is nice to say but does not fix the residents’ real issue, and she did not want to give them the false expectation that it would solve the problem long-term. She suggested the Board remand this issue to Staff to come back with a real solution such as speed bumps or no left signs.

Police Chief O’Shea stated he could have officers monitor the area or move a speed trailer there. He noted they are currently focused in the school zones.

Trustee Cargie stated it seemed there were not as many speeding drivers down his street after having police presence there, but asked if there was data rather than anecdotal evidence. Village Engineer Loster replied that there was not.

Trustee Bachner suggested police presence could lead to drivers’ awareness.

Trustee Henek reiterated some of the Commission’s suggested temporary solutions, like setting up a dummy car and getting data in the area, but that the Village needs to offer long-term solutions. She agreed, however, that even temporary solutions could change behavior, and expressed that a timeframe might be considered with the ultimate goal of having these concerns addressed.

President Adduci and Trustee Vazquez suggested remanding this issue back to Staff.

Trustees Cargie and Henek withdrew their motion. The consensus of the Village Board was to direct Staff to examine the issue and present more permanent solutions to consider.

c. Traffic and Safety – Amend Title 9 of the Village Code – Changes to Commuter Parking for Scooters/Motorcycles – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee Brennan, to approve an Ordinance to amend Title 9 of the Village Code to install, at the requested locations on Central and Hawthorne Avenues, dedicated daily parking zones for motorcycles/scooters at a rate of \$2.50, and monthly permit parking zones for motorcycles/scooters at a rate of \$25.00 on 5/1/2019 and \$27.50 starting 5/1/2020.

Administrator Palm summarized this request and explained the reasoning for selecting these locations as dedicated scooter parking. He noted that the rate of \$2.50/day and progressive monthly permit rates incentivize drivers to switch to scooters or motorcycles.

In response to a question from Trustee Brennan, Administrator Palm stated the only additional concrete would be an apron to access the proposed scooter parking area in the Thatcher lot.

In response to a question from Trustee Henek, Administrator Palm confirmed the Village would retain the old scooter parking spaces as well.

In response to a question from Trustee O'Connell, Administrator Palm explained that vehicle parking also increases annually.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner, Administrator Palm showed the breakdown of the Thatcher parking lot, which has a mix of 24-hour permits and commuters.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

#### Discussion Regarding New Structure for Commuter Permit Parking

Trustees Cargie and O'Connell suggesting waiting to make changes to commuter parking until the parking study is complete.

Administrator Palm reviewed how the Village sells commuter permits. He noted that Staff has received complaints from people on the waiting list that the monthly permit spaces are not full. He explained Staff's proposal to change the structure for commuter permit parking: \$50/month permit would be a cost-savings measure for daily resident commuters, \$100/month premium permit would guarantee a parking space for residents, and \$5/day parking would be available for commuters who do not travel every day and also be available for non-residents. Administrator Palm stated Staff could survey parkers to see if they like this idea before implementing the change.

In response to questions from Trustee Cargie, Administrator Palm stated Staff does not believe there is a capacity issue and that there would not be individually assigned spaces. He explained that enforcement would be done through the license plate reader.

Trustee Henek expressed concern that if the Village sells an unlimited number of \$50/month permits, people may not have anywhere to park. She proposed that the Village be clear in communicating that possibility.

Administrator Palm stated that past experience has shown that when the Village sold one permit per space, people would purchase the permits but there would still be plenty of available spaces. He further noted that since there is not currently a capacity issue, he did not think running out of spaces would be a concern. Assistant to the Village Administrator Pape clarified that there is frequently parking availability down Hawthorne.

Trustee Brennan supported the idea and thought the premium permits would sell well.

Trustee Cargie stated he did not have a problem with it if there was no capacity issue.

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Amend Chapter 4-5 of the Village Code Regarding Construction Signage – Ordinance

Trustee O’Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner to approve an Ordinance to amend Section 4-5 of the Village Code regarding sign regulations.

Administrator Palm summarized the Ordinance, stating that the Village wants to provide user- and business-friendly construction sign regulations for advertising. He noted this would create more flexibility and larger signs for the projects.

In response to a question from Trustee Bachner regarding safety, Administrator Palm stated air pockets are required and assured the Village would do what it can to ensure the fences are properly secured.

In response to a question from Trustee O’Connell, Administrator Palm stated only planned developments would be subject to these regulations and they would not apply to residential construction projects.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O’Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

- b. Amend Section 8-6-22 of the Village Code Regarding Prohibition of the Sale of Flavored Liquid Nicotine Products – Ordinance

Trustee Vazquez made a motion, seconded by Trustee O’Connell to approve an Ordinance to amend Section 8-6-22 of the Village Code to Prohibit the Sale of Flavored Liquid Nicotine Products

President Adduci announced that the Village could not sit idly any longer given the gravity of the impact of flavored liquid nicotine products. She explained that this Ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavors like cotton candy and bubblegum, and would take a stand against luring children, teens and those under 21 to vape using liquid nicotine.

Attorney Smith further explained that this Ordinance would prohibit the sale of flavored liquid nicotine products in River Forest but not possession. He stated the Ordinance has a 30-day delay so that sellers have the opportunity to reduce their stock before it takes effect, then the products would be subject to confiscation.

Trustee O'Connell supported the Ordinance, commenting that every night there is another story on the news about the dangers of these products and now even Wal-Mart is banning them.

In response to questions regarding the sign requirements, Administrator Palm stated Staff would send notification to retailers and a sample sign.

President Adduci thanked the Village Board for being a leader on this issue.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

Trustee Brennan stated that she has received comments from residents about deer management. She asked whether public safety records are incorporated in the FAQ.

Assistant to the Administrator Pape stated the issue was addressed generally but the Village's data was not included. President Adduci asked that the document be updated to include it.

In response to Trustee Brennan's question about timing of an Inter-governmental agreement with the Forest Preserve, Administrator Palm stated they do not yet have that information and it will be shared with the Board when it is available.

President Adduci stated there would always be a public meeting before taking a vote on any payment and that the Board has to approve it if the Village would pay for it.

## **10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee O'Connell made a motion, seconded by Trustee Bachner, to adjourn the regular Village Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Roll call:

Ayes: Trustees Bachner, Brennan, Cargie, Henek, O'Connell, Vazquez

Absent: None

Nays: None

Motion Passes.

---

Kathleen Brand-White, Village Clerk